



Norman H. Bangerter  
Governor

Dee C. Hansen  
Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.  
Division Director

# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
801-538-5340

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*Inspection Folder*

TO: File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist *PAB*

DATE: September 29, 1992

RE: Inspection for Abatement of Violations N92-37-5-1 and 6-1 Utah Fuel Company, Skyline Mine, ACT/007/005, Carbon County, Utah

On September 11, 1992, I visited the Skyline Mine for the purpose of checking the abatement of violations N92-37-5-1 and N92-37-6-1. These violations concerned alternate sediment control along the conveyor and design of ditch DD-9 and swale S-10 at the loadout. The violations were not terminated with this inspection, and the abatement time was subsequently extended.

The abatement for violation N92-37-6-1 required that the culverts along the state highway be cleaned and that sediment control be maintained outside of the permit area until vegetation has established. I checked every culvert from the end of the conveyor bench to the loadout. All of the culverts contained some debris, but it was clear from the growth of vegetation that most of this sediment had been deposited before conveyor construction was begun.

At the culvert beneath tower 45 there was sediment mixed with a small amount of straw that appeared to be construction-related. Gary Peterson of Utah Fuel who accompanied me agreed with this assessment. This culvert was a 24" corrugated metal pipe that had about 6-9" of clearance. Straw bales had been placed in the borrow ditch east and west of this culvert and immediately below the tower, but there was an area about 30 X 10 feet immediately above the culvert and below the sediment control below the tower that was basically barren and which didn't have any sediment control devices in it. The reason for the lack of vegetation in this small drainage was possibly because of the foot traffic associated with construction or because vegetation had simply failed to establish. I looked at other areas along the road above the mine where there were similar drainages, and these had vegetation in them. This led me to believe that the reason for the lack of vegetation was the foot traffic.

Because the abatement date for cleaning the road culverts was September 4, 1992, a failure to abate cessation order was contemplated for the one culvert below tower 45. Bill Shriver and one of the representatives of the conveyor contracting firm stated, however, that all of the culverts had been cleaned as of the abatement time. This could not be verified but was assumed to be true. A separate violation could possibly have

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been written, but sediment was cleaned from the culvert within just a few minutes. I stated that sediment control needed to be installed at the bottom of the drainage, but I was told that Priscilla Burton, the inspector who wrote the violations, had told them to remove some straw bales that had been installed there. Ms. Burton later said that she had not made this request. The deadline according to the violation for installing sediment control outside of the permit area was September 18, 1992.

To determine abatement of violation N92-37-5-1, ditch DD-9 at the loadout was measured at a typical location. The side of the ditch had a 2h:1v slope, and the ditch was 30" deep. The design calls for the sides to be 1.5h:1v and the depth to be 1.9 feet.

Swale S-10 had been eliminated by the construction of a reclaim conveyor. A small ditch had been built around the construction area, and water was flowing from a culvert through this ditch. Measurements were not taken of this ditch.